

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED



ANNUAL REPORT **1970**

79 Madison Ave. • New York, New York 10016 • (212) 683-8581

To Make a Difference

Often problems of the day may seem insoluble, but when we examine them closely one by one, the prospect changes. An improvement in one piece of our national fabric may show how other pieces can be strengthened. A new pattern—a new method—may be adaptable to more than one area.

We believe this may prove true of the innovative approach of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped. The problem NAC is tackling is special, yet has many elements in common with other problems of our society. It is not enormous yet it is not tiny either:

Agencies for the blind in the United States are spending almost half a billion dollars a year in contributed and tax funds. Their services vary greatly in quality from city to city and even within cities.

These agencies aim to serve about a million Americans who are blind or have severe visual handicaps. Most recent estimates quoted by the National Eye Institute are that approximately 50,000 persons a year, over the next 10 years, will become legally blind—a total of half a million new cases of blindness in a decade.

Thus the need for rehabilitation services for the blind may be expected to increase and so will the requests for governmental and private support of these services.

Can we get some assurance of quality as well as quantity in services for blind people? Can we obtain objective evidence that funds for these services are being prudently administered?

The National Accreditation Council was founded to provide affirmative answers to blind and sighted citizens who ask these questions.

ARTHUR L. BRANDON, *President*

Since it began operations in January, 1967, NAC has demonstrated that agencies and schools for the blind can and do improve their administration and programs when they apply nationally accepted, objective standards to their operations, and submit the findings of their own self-studies to validation by teams of qualified specialists and administrators.

Accreditation by NAC is public recognition that an agency or school for the blind is doing a quality job.

The accreditation process provides a system of quality controls—to protect those who receive services and those who provide the funds for the services.

The first four years of NAC have been a time of pioneering. Agencies and schools that were willing and able to serve as pioneers have led the way in seeking accreditation.

Now, as we set forth the gains of 1970 in this report, we do so not so much to record these achievements as to point out that we must involve more agencies for the blind in utilizing the standards.

We are grateful to the more than 200 leaders in the field who have given their time freely to serve on on-site review teams and to hundreds more who have served as advisors and on special task forces. Our gratitude goes to the concerned organizations and corporations that have sponsored the accreditation program and to individuals, foundations, and government agencies that have given financial support.

We hope that the continuing example of all those who have participated will inspire others to join in doing the big job that lies ahead.

Accreditation *does* make a difference.

... We are most interested in developing gainful employment for every blind person who wants to work and is able to do so. It is the opinion of the Committee that constant improvement of the operations and services of Agencies for the Blind is fundamental to achieving this goal. Consequently, seeking accreditation as a means of improvement should receive the serious consideration of every Agency for the Blind.

H. A. ABERSFELLER, *Chairman*
Committee on Purchases of Blind-Made Products
An Independent Federal Agency

We are, as you know, busily engaged in expanding services to all in our society who need them. The challenge, however, cannot be met by growth alone. The development of and adherence to high standards is of the utmost importance. A proliferation of poor services is little better than no services at all. And it is for this reason we depend on organizations such as yours to continually assess service delivery and thereby assure that the citizens we serve are receiving the kind of help to which they are entitled.

JOHN D. TWINAME, *Administrator*
Social and Rehabilitation Service
U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Momentum Toward Better Services

A total of 27 agencies and schools for the blind had been accredited by the end of 1970. There were 16 accreditations within the year, compared with eight in 1969 and the initial three in 1968.

Of the 16, two were agencies that had previously been deferred. Utilizing insights and knowledge gained during their self-studies and reviews, they were able to make needed improvements and thus qualify for accreditation.

Since December 31, 1970 was the deadline for applications for charter accredited membership, a number of applications were received just before the deadline. On-site reviews of several were pending at the year's end.

As agencies and schools moved forward toward accreditation, others undertook self-studies. Thus the number reporting that they were in some stage of preparation remained constant at about 60.

The Right To Read

Poor printing, misspellings, careless editing or hard-to-handle format can slow down and confuse readers of regular inkprint books and periodicals. Comparable failure to meet standards of quality production can be even more disastrous to the million blind or partially sighted Americans who rely on braille, recordings or large print.

Yet until the fall of 1970 there was no codification of applicable standards available to agencies and the thousands of dedicated volunteers who produce "reading" materials in the three media.

Now there is. In October NAC published *Standards for Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped*. Simultaneously, NAC published a supplement to the general *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide* which is used by agencies preparing for accreditation. Project chairman was the Reverend Thomas J. Carroll, director of professional policy and development, The Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Newton, Mass.; project director was Professor Ray L. Trautman, Columbia University School of Library Science. A private foundation and the U. S. Office of Education made the two-year undertaking possible.

Concerning the standards Dr. Edward Newman, commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, HEW, wrote: "We are highly pleased with the professional nature in which standards for large print, recordings, and braille have been developed. These standards will be of significant benefit to the State-Federal rehabilitation program, as well as the field of education for the blind and visually handicapped."

The standards were warmly welcomed by others also. As this report goes to press almost 2,000 copies have been distributed.

Outreach

The standards that NAC administers are not merely "NAC Standards." They have been developed with the advice and consent of many representatives of the public and of the consumers of services as well as from experience of professionals.

Thus the application of the standards to improve services to blind people is not a matter of concern to NAC alone. It is the common concern of many different groups. Through these groups, more than 1,000 interested persons learned more about accreditation in 1970.

- Four of the six regional conferences of the American Association of Workers for the Blind scheduled special sessions or workshops on accreditation in which three NAC board members and two staff members participated.
- The Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped, at its biennial convention in New Orleans, held a double-session workshop to help school administrators initiate and conduct self-studies.
- The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind invited an NAC Board member and the executive director of NAC to participate in a double session: a presentation of the community's interest in high standards of agency service followed by a how-to-do-it discussion of the self-study as a management tool.
- NAC worked with the American Foundation for the Blind on a series of three regional institutes for board and key staff of local agencies.
- In addition, almost 200 persons took part in NAC's Conference on Standards for the Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped in Chicago, April 24, 1970.
- About 125 representatives of local agencies and schools attended NAC's annual meeting on April 25 in Chicago.
- Four more agencies — three national and one state — became Associate Members of NAC. (Associates are agencies, organizations, civic groups, foundations and corporations not subject to accreditation but deeply concerned that services to blind people should be improved.)

NOTE: The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, at its April 22, 1970 meeting, adopted a resolution of far-reaching import to all facilities providing services to clients of state divisions of vocational rehabilitation. All such agencies are to seek accreditation or certification by June 20, 1974, and, in any event, to secure accreditation by June 30, 1976. NAC is one of the accrediting agencies designated by the resolution.

Summary of Financial Activities

For Year Ended December 31, 1970

Support and Revenue		Expenditures	
Contributions received directly	\$ 73,282.38	Program services:	
Indirect public support	<u>2,450.00</u>	a) Accreditation	\$ 63,486.15
<u>Total public support</u>	<u>\$ 75,732.38</u>	b) Standards	80,588.73
Fees and grants from government agencies	118,815.45	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$144,074.88</u>
Other revenue	<u>22,026.42</u>	Management and general	55,337.03
<u>Total public support and revenue</u>	<u>\$216,574.25</u>	Fund raising	6,761.11
Less: Support and grants limited by donors or grantors	<u>21,477.45</u>	<u>Total expenditures</u>	<u>\$206,173.02</u>
Support and revenue available to finance current general activities	<u>\$195,096.80</u>	Less: Expenditures financed by special funds— Current restricted funds	<u>33,090.67</u>
•Includes sales and interest income		Expenditures financed by current general revenue	<u>\$173,082.35</u>
		Excess of current general revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ 22,014.45</u>
		Deduction of appropriations by Board (a) To funds functioning as endowment*	<u>18,598.34</u>
		Increase in unappropriated general fund	<u>\$ 3,416.11</u>

Balance Sheets

December 31, 1970

Current Funds — Assets		Current Funds — Liabilities and Fund Balances	
General Fund		General Fund	
Cash in bank	\$33,761.74	Employees' withholdings	\$ 2,429.71
Accounts receivable	1,309.92	Unliquidated obligations	538.98
Due from restricted fund	<u>924.31</u>	Deferred revenue	5,650.00
<u>Total General Fund</u>	<u>\$35,995.97</u>	Fund balance: Unappropriated— Balance—January 1, 1970	<u>\$23,961.17</u>
		Increase during year	<u>3,416.11</u>
		Balance—December 31, 1970	<u>27,377.28</u>
		<u>Total General Fund</u>	<u>\$35,995.97</u>
		Restricted Fund	
Cash in bank	none	Due to General Fund	\$ 924.31
<u>Total Restricted Fund</u>	<u>none</u>	Fund balance (deficit)—December 31, 1970	(924.31)
		<u>Total Restricted Fund</u>	<u>none</u>
		Funds Functioning As Endowment	
		Fund balance: Balance—January 1, 1970	\$30,052.63
		Increase during year— Sales	\$ 3,585.00
		Interest	5,013.34
		Appropriation by action of Board of Directors	10,000.00 18,598.34
		Balance—December 31, 1970	<u>\$48,650.97</u>
		<u>Total Funds Functioning As Endowment</u>	<u>\$48,650.97</u>

OPINION

To the Board of Directors
National Accreditation Council for Agencies
Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc.

We have examined the accompanying Balance Sheets as at December 31, 1970 and related Summary of Financial Activities for the year ended December 31, 1970. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records

New York, N.Y.
February 22, 1971

and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying Balance Sheets and related Summary of Financial Activities present fairly the financial position of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc. at December 31, 1970 and its income, expenditures and additions to fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.

S. P. COOPER COMPANY
Certified Public Accountants

Accredited Members of the National Accreditation Council as of December 31, 1970

Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind
Little Rock, Arkansas
ROY KUMPE, Executive Director

Arkansas School for the Blind
Little Rock, Arkansas
J. M. WOOLLY, Superintendent

Cincinnati Association for the Blind
Cincinnati, Ohio
MILTON A. JAHODA, Executive Director

The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Cleveland, Ohio
CLEO B. DOLAN, Executive Director

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Washington, D. C.
J. ARTHUR JOHNSON, Executive Director

Dallas County Association for the Blind
Dallas, Texas
AUSTIN G. SCOTT, Executive Director

Dallas Services for Blind Children
Dallas, Texas
Mrs. LUCIE D. LADE, Executive Director

The Hadley School for the Blind
Winnetka, Illinois
DONALD WING HATHAWAY, President

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston
Houston, Texas
MRS. GERALDINE ROUGAGNAC, Executive Director

Lions Club Industries for the Blind
Durham, North Carolina
CONWAY HARRIS, General Manager

Division of Eye Care and Special Services
Maine Department of Health & Welfare
Augusta, Maine
PAUL E. ROURKE, Director

The Maryland School for the Blind
Baltimore, Maryland
HERBERT J. WOLFE, Superintendent

Massachusetts Association for the Blind
Boston, Massachusetts
JACK C. LOADMAN, Executive Director

Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped
Richmond, Virginia
WILLIAM T. COPPAGE, Director

Metropolitan Society for the Blind
Detroit, Michigan
MCALISTER UPSHAW, Executive Director

Michigan School for the Blind
Lansing, Michigan
ROBERT H. THOMPSON, Superintendent

The Minneapolis Society for the Blind
Minneapolis, Minnesota
FRANK R. JOHNSON, Executive Director

The New York Association for the Blind
New York, New York
WESLEY D. SPRAGUE, Executive Director

Ohio State School for the Blind
Columbus, Ohio
D. W. OVERREAY, Superintendent

Oklahoma School for the Blind
Muskogee, Oklahoma
V. R. CARTER, Superintendent

Oregon State School for the Blind
Salem, Oregon
CHARLES C. WOODCOCK, Superintendent

Perkins School for the Blind
Watertown, Massachusetts
EDWARD J. WATERHOUSE, Director

Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mrs. MARCELLA C. GOLDBERG, Executive Director

Rhode Island Association for the Blind
Providence, Rhode Island
Mrs. HELEN W. WORDEN, Executive Director

Rhode Island Division of Services for the Blind
Providence, Rhode Island
E. LYMAN D'ANDREA, Administrator

Shreveport Association for the Blind
Shreveport, Louisiana
E. J. ROBINSON, Executive Director

Tennessee School for the Blind
Donelson, Tennessee
CLAY COBLE, Superintendent

American Association of Workers for the Blind
American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Foundation for the Overseas Blind
American Library Association
American Optometric Association
American Printing House for the Blind
Association for Education of the Visually
Handicapped
Choice Magazine Listening
Delta Gamma Foundation

Dialogue
The Foote System
Kansas Association for the Blind
National Braille Association
National Braille Press
National Industries for the Blind
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Nationwide Foundation
New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind
Recording for the Blind
Volunteer Services for the Blind

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as of December 31, 1970

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*Deceased

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The New York Association for the Blind
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Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Division for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
Rehabilitation Services Administration, HEW
Washington, D.C.

HOMER P. RAINES, Professor of Higher Education
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colo.

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American Foundation for the Blind
New York, N.Y.

Commission on Standards

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Arkansas School for the Blind
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Chairman

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Director of Professional Policy and Development
The Catholic Guild for All the Blind
Newton, Mass.

WILLIAM T. COPPAGE, Director
Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped
Richmond, Va.

OWEN R. DAVISON, Consultant to Funds and Councils
Community Services of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pa.

CLEO B. DOLAN, Executive Director
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Cleveland, Ohio

NORMAN V. LOURIE, Deputy Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Harrisburg, Pa.

DURWARD K. McDANIEL
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American Council of the Blind
Washington, D.C.

MRS. GERALDINE ROUGAGNAC, Executive Director
Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston
Houston, Texas

Alexander F. Handel

Executive Director

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Counsel

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A member of the National Budget and Consultation Committee.

Contributions to the National Accreditation Council are tax deductible.

